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S/N 09/909,488

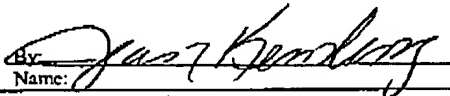
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Harapanahalli S. Muralidhara et al. Examiner: Ana M. Fortuna  
Serial No.: 09/909,488 Group Art Unit: 1723  
Filed: July 20, 2001 Docket No.: 12897.10US01  
Title: NANOFILTRATION WATER-SOFTENING APPARATUS AND METHOD

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on March 1, 2005.

By:   
Name:

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c))

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted after the mailing date of a first Office Action on-the-merits or a first Office Action after filing a Request for Continued Examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 or a CPA under 37 C.F.R. § 1.53(d), but before the mailing date of: i) a final action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.113; ii) a Notice of Allowance under 37 C.F.R. § 1.311; or iii) an action that otherwise closes prosecution on the application. Please charge Deposit Account No. 13-2725 the amount of \$180.00 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is

intended. With regard to Russian reference RU 2 060 804 C1, Applicants note that this reference appears inapplicable on numerous grounds, including, but not limited to, to disclosure in the reference of water recovery rates and ion rejection rates are outside the scope of the claimed invention.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Please charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725.



Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

Date: March 1, 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. M. Pauly", written over a horizontal line.

Daniel M. Pauly  
Reg. No. 40,123

Date Mailed: March 1, 2005

Sheet 1 of 1

**23552**

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

FORM 1449\*

## INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

## IN AN APPLICATION

(Use several sheets if necessary)

Docket Number:

12897.10US01

Application Number:

09/909,488

Applicant: Harapanahalli S. Muralidhara et al.

Filing Date: July 20, 2001

Group Art Unit: 1723

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION	
						YES	NO
	RU 2 060 804 C1	5-27-96	Russia			X	

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

		Watson et al., "Low-Energy Membrane Nanofiltration for Removal of Color, Organics and Hardness from Drinking Water Supplies", <u>Desalination</u> , 72 (1989) 11-22.

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.

\*Substitute Disclosure Statement Form (PTO-1449)

Patent and Trademark Office; U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE